

## **REMARKS**

The Office Action dated December 30, 2004, has been received and carefully noted. The amendments made herein and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Amendment, claims 45, 56 and 72 have been cancelled and claims 46, 50-55, 57, 59, 60, 63-66, 69, 70 and 73-77 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments made herein are fully supported in the specification and the drawings as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 46-55, 57-71 and 73-77 are pending in the present application and are respectfully submitted for allowance.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the allowance of claim 71 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 46-51, 53-55, 57-63, 66, 70 and 73-77 of the present application.

Applicants further appreciate the telephone conference with Examiner Raymond on March 8, 2005, in which he advised that dependent claims 52, 64, 65 and 67-69 also contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, each of claims 46, 50-55, 57, 59, 60, 63-66, 69, 70 and 73-77 have been rewritten to be in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims 45, 56 and 72, respectively. Thus, Applicants submit that these claims are in condition for allowance.

As claims 47-48 depend from allowable claim 46, claim 58 depends from allowable claim 57, and claims 61, 62, 67 and 68 depend from allowable claim 60, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

**Claims 45, 56 and 72 Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 45, 56 and 72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Whetsel, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,987). Claims 45, 56 and 72 have been cancelled without prejudice, rendering this rejection moot.

**Conclusion**

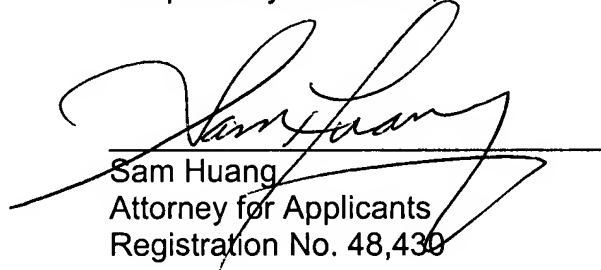
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 46-55, 57-71, and 73-77 are in condition for allowance, and further submit that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper has not been timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket number 100021-00074.

Respectfully submitted,



Sam Huang  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 48,430

Customer No. 004372  
ARENT FOX, PLLC  
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339  
Tel: (202) 857-6000  
Fax: (202) 638-4810

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